



A GOOD GRIEF PLAN

Margaret Walsh



born 14 March 1958 · she/her

*Everything the people I love will need — gathered with care, so
they never have to guess.*

prepared 19 July 2026 · for the people I love



Contents

About Me	3
Life Story	3
Burial Preferences	3
Ceremony	4
Celebrant Briefing	4
Music	4
Special Wishes	4
Farewell Message	4
Final Messages	5
Not to Be Admitted	5
Pet Care Plan	5
Charities & Donations in Lieu of Flowers	5
Budget Plan	5
Important Documents	6
Trusted Contacts	6
The First Calls	6
Medical Directives	6
Medical Details	6

About Me

Margaret Anne Walsh, beloved mother, grandmother, friend and lifelong teacher, passed peacefully at home in Seaview, surrounded by family. Born in Rivermouth in 1958 to Frank and Eileen Walsh, she trained at Hillcrest Teachers College and gave thirty-eight years to the Rivermouth public school system, most of them at Bayside Primary, where generations of children remember her firmness, her warmth, and her insistence on cursive handwriting. She raised two children, James and Sarah, with the same patience, and after the loss of her husband Robert in 2015, she filled her days with bridge club, the Bayside Jetty community garden, and Sunday lunches that always ran late.

Life Story

- 1958 ♦ **Born in Rivermouth**
At Riverside Hospital, the second of four children.
- 1976 ♦ **Started teachers college**
Hillcrest — first in the family to pursue tertiary study.
- 1980 ♦ **Married Robert**
Civil ceremony at Seaview, beach reception, summer storm.
- 1983 ♦ **James born**
Three weeks early; held him every night for the first year.
- 1986 ♦ **Sarah born**
On her birthday, of all things.
- 2015 ♦ **Robert passed**
Quickly, after a short illness. The garden became important.
- 2018 ♦ **Joined community garden**
Bed 14, the one with the tomatoes that won an award.

Burial Preferences

TYPE	Cremation
LOCATION	Centennial Park Cemetery, Pasadena
DETAILS	I would like to be cremated. The ashes can be split — some scattered at the Bayside jetty where Robert and I walked every Sunday morning, the rest interred with him at Centennial Park.

Ceremony

STYLE	Small celebration of life — friends and family only
VENUE	St Jude's Church, Bayside
DRESS CODE	Wear something colourful. No black.
FLOWERS	Wildflowers if you must. I would prefer donations to the Rivermouth Botanic Garden in lieu.
FOOD & DRINKS	Sandwiches and proper tea afterwards at the Bayside Surf Club function room. Sarah has the bookings.
SPEAKERS	James Walsh — A son's eulogy Helen Bradshaw — Forty years of friendship Lily Walsh-Tan — On behalf of the grandchildren
READINGS	Mary Oliver — "When Death Comes". Sarah will read this. A short passage from Marilynne Robinson's Gilead, page 246, the bit about the river. James will read.
LIVE STREAM	yes – so no one has to miss it

Celebrant Briefing

tone	celebratory
REFER TO ME AS	Margaret — never Marge
HUMOUR	yes, please
STORIES TO TELL	The 1998 sports-day megaphone incident.

Music

- songbird (Entry)
- spring (Reflection)

Special Wishes

Please nobody read the 23rd Psalm. I am very fond of it but I have heard it at every funeral I have ever been to and I would like something else. Mary Oliver instead, please.

Farewell Message

To my children, my grandchildren, and the friends who became family: thank you for filling a quiet life with so much noise and laughter. Be kind to each other. Eat the cake. Go for the walk. Forgive the small things and remember the good ones. I have loved you all enormously.

Final Messages

for James

to be opened after I'm gone

for Sarah

to be opened after I'm gone

for Lily

to be opened after I'm gone

Not to Be Admitted

- My ex-brother-in-law Trevor — He knows why.

Pet Care Plan

Biscuit – Tabby cat, 12 yrs – goes to Sarah (+1 555 0884)

Charities & Donations in Lieu of Flowers

- Riverside Botanic Garden Foundation — riverbotanic.example
- National Society for the Blind — nsb.example

Budget Plan

- Cremation services: USD 4,800 — Centennial Park inclusive package
- Celebrant / officiant: USD 600
- Venue hire — Bayside Surf Club: USD 350 — Members rate
- Catering for ~60 people: USD 950 — Sandwiches, tea, slice
- Flowers (wildflower posies): USD 220
- Order of service printing: USD 180 — 60 copies
- Livestream setup: USD 0 — James will handle on his iPhone

Estimated total: USD 7,100

Important Documents

- Will: with Stephens & Co Solicitors, North Rivermouth. James has the executor copy.
- Birth certificate: blue folder in the filing cabinet, top drawer.
- Passport: same drawer, expired but kept for ID.
- Property title: Stephens & Co also.

Trusted Contacts

SON	James Walsh · +1 555 0213 · james.walsh@example.com
DAUGHTER	Sarah Walsh-Tan · +1 555 0884 · sarah.walshtan@example.com
CLOSEST FRIEND	Helen Bradshaw · +1 555 0188
SOLICITOR	Stephens & Co · +1 555 0404 · reception@stephensco.example

The First Calls

In roughly this order. Tick them off — and let someone else make a few.

- ☐ 01 Call the GP or attending doctor to certify the death
Dr Anya Patel · +1 555 0440
- ☐ 02 Notify next of kin
James Walsh · +1 555 0213
- ☐ 03 Contact the POA / medical decision maker
James Walsh · +1 555 0213
- ☐ 04 Order certified copies of the death certificate — at least ten
The funeral home will help. Banks, pensions and property transfers each want their own.

Medical Directives

ORGAN DONATION	not recorded
MEDICAL POA	James Walsh · +1 555 0213

Medical Details

GP: Dr Anya Patel · +1 555 0440

Current medications:

- Atorvastatin 40mg — Nightly
- Aspirin 100mg — Mornings with food



*Gathered with care, for the people I love — so they never have to
guess.*

PREPARED WITH GOOD GRIEF FOR MARGARET WALSH

19 july 2026



scan for who to call

private – for my people